

A COGITO-BEHAVIORO-SUMMING UP

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Ergo:
In scrimmages over images
We may not see eye to eye.
Dichotomies make me ill at ease
And dualism makes me sigh.
I speak of mind, oft redefined,
With visage sometimes wry
(While wishin' that cognition
As behavior could get by),
But were mental incidental
Then I wouldn't even try.
I'm not leery of a theory
If it helps to show us why,
Corresponding to responding,
There are thoughts we can't deny.
But respecting introspecting
On whose say we can rely?
And what guarantees that processes
Won't always multiply?
Expectations, attributions,
Social fields (with radii),
Attitudes, ideas and moods,
Ego concepts many-ply,
Nervous states and brain templates,
Psychic forces, incubi.
These creations are way-stations.
Do they really clarify?
No such laws'll e'er be causal.
Merely to personify
Is not explaining; it's sustaining
Theoretic alibi.
Mental reference gets no deference.
It can hardly edify
If to arrive at something private
It must use homunculi.
(Ah, must we anguish over language?
Different meanings still defy
Our demanding understanding
As into the mind we pry.)
We discovered that things covert
Come in memory to lie

Through rehearsal. Controversial?
I've an operant reply.
These memory stores are metaphors;
Let us not misclassify.
We're pursuing subject's doing.
There's no need to reify.
The state-dependence of remembrance
Might be caused by gin or rye,
And if experiments confirm inferred events
On such theory we'll vote, "Aye,"
But don't distract us from the practice
Of trying hard to nullify,
When first we're coming on some phenomenon,
The verbal biases that belie
The simple facts (let's call them tacts)
That come before our oculi.
Degrees of freedom, if we need 'em
In the fit of x to y ,
Shape a function in conjunction
With controlling stimuli.
It's not reflexes that perplex us
(The respondent rules apply);
In volition's the condition
That makes verbal feathers fly.
Yet instead you'll find a schedule
(DRL, or just FI)
Provides the drive for which we strive,
As when we watch rats satisfy
Some contingency (say VR33)
And then call them bold or shy.
Thus we address learned helplessness,
And thus we verify
That in autoshaping, like escaping,
Organisms can espy
Events conditional; we know a pigeon'll.
Some may end up high and dry,
But adapting creatures learn which features
Of their world to modify.
Reinforcement gets endorsement
Even from the rat, bait-shy,
That learns avoidance of the poisons
That would otherwise make it die.

An earlier draft of this poem provided the major themes of the 1978 Division 25 Presidential Address, "On Being Behavioral in Non-Behavioral Places," at the Toronto meeting of the American Psychological Association. Send requests for reprints to A. C. Catania, Department of Psychology, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 5401 Wilkens Ave., Catonsville, Maryland 21228.

There's no doubt that it's the out-
 Comes that must always justify
 Behavior changes of great ranges:
 Walden Two (*Box populi*);
 Economies token; Follow Through in Hoboken;
 The Keller system, PSI.
 Another case? Achievement Place.
 Each of these should typify
 Aspirations to applications
 That our science can supply.
 Common sense says consequences
 Give the way to unify.
 The differential's what's essential;
 That's what operants imply.
 So comes to pass behavior class
 To then diversify.
 The solution's evolution:
 Just some survive of those that vie.
 Yet our own teaching isn't reaching
 Far enough. Some prophesy
 Our swift demise (Do you hear cries
 Of censors: "Crucify!"?).
 Behavior science's too few alliances
 Within cognition's syllabi
 Prompt programs specialized, with fervor undisguised,
 At just a few far-flung loci,
 With staffs unshirking. But are they working?
 Are they enough, these nuclei?
 Without descendants—well-trained students—
 Our whole field may ossify.
 To academe's where some must stream
 To explicate and clarify.
 Our science breeds through student seeds,
 So we must keep our standards high.
 Thus, selection gives direction.
 Here psychology's rallying cry?
 Yes. Our behaving is worth saving.
 Now, dear colleagues all, goodbye.

—Signed by ψ .

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the previous issue of *The Behavior Analyst*, 1981, 4, (1), 57, "A Cogito-Behavioro-Summing-Up" was published with a line arrangement which was considerably altered from the author's original line arrangement. The version published in this issue is a corrected version which reflects the poem's original layout.